HEVINSN

A moſt rare & true report, of ſuch great tempeſts, ſtraunge ſightes, and wonderfull accidents, which happened by the prouidence of God, in Hereford ſhire, at a place called the Hay, and there abouts, beſides the ſightes of ſtrannge Fowles, which there were ſeene, moſt fearefull to beholde, with their horrible cryes & ſtrangenes, with the great hurt was done by them.

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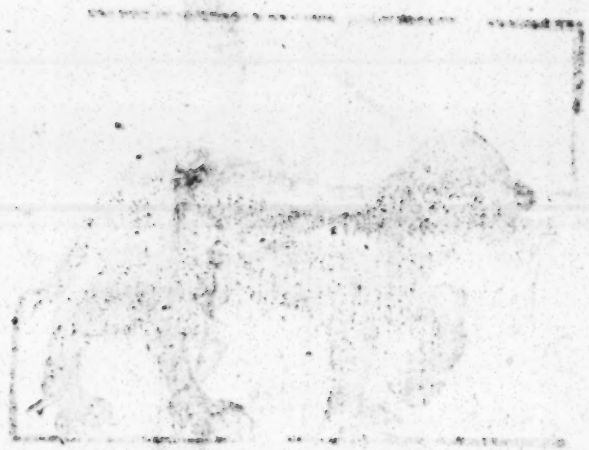

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*Math.*3.

Amend your liues, for the kingdome of God is at hand.

IF beloued, the sundrie and manifold examples of Gods indignation powred vpon vs, which we through our intolerable heapes of iniquities haue deserued be extinct, and that through his owne intyre mercy and vnspeakeable clemencie withdrawing his heauie displeasure, from our heads, we become forgetful of his goodnes sleeping in sinne, drenched in the depth of our desires, and wallowing in iniquities. Let this rare and wonderfull spectacle of our vtter decaie, and ruinous subuersion be an admonition, a caueat, yea and an alarum to awake vs from our sinfull and sluggish sleeping, least the sodaine wrath of our Lord and sauiour come vpon vs before we be aware, but vnwares we cannot account it, in so much as he sendeth, giueth, and sheweth innumerable signes of his heauie displeasure euen in a moment to fall vpon vs, aswell in other signes as in this sight, the very report whereof but little read, and lightly regarded, may be sufficient to reclaime the most sinnefull, and hard harted creature.

On Saterday being the 25. of September, last past, at the Hay in Herefordshier was seene so rare a sight as neither our forefathers haue knowne, nor we our selues heard of. For there arose sodenlye a most wonderfull and cruell tempest, with such aboundant high waters, that the whole countrie was

not onely greatly amazed therwith, but also in danger of drowning: besides the losse of great and plentious store of Corne and Cattell, wherewith they were indued: at which instant there appeared also a most wonderfull and dreadfull sight of two great cloudes, the one being blacke, which arising, issued from the North, the other being white, came from the South part, which meeting together seemed, to rend the Skie with their ratling, in such unusuall sort, that it brought a most rare and terrible terrour to the beholders. In the middest of which cloudes, opposite with the earth did visibly appeare, there situated a faire greene Field, as it had beene of feirne, in which field dispersed was seene flying an innumerable companie of blacke Crowes, and other Foules which continuing a certaine time, sent forth most dreadfull straunge and wonderful cryes, no lesse rare to be recited then lamentable to regard: being in altitude to the iudgement of the beholders not aboue 30. fadomes from the earth: with a verye obscure and darke continuance: and not long before the vanishing of these cloudes, was heard so rare and horrible roaring (as if it had beene) the cryes of beares and lyons: yea and that so terrible that it was rather iudged to haue beene the skritching of some malevolent hellish and furious fiends: these presupposed Crowes were of diuers credible persons visiblye seene to rent and teare whole houses, barnes, and stables, yea and to pull out whole and huge trees by the rootes, in a most rare and wonderfull manner ransacked and dispersed into diuerse places, yea and after a most dreadfull sight some of the rafters and peeces therof, were carried vp into the aire, and after that neuer sithens seene, with great store of corne which at that

time

time was carried away. Likewise such hauocke made of trees that had stood a long time, as would almost exceede a truth to be spoken of, some were pulled vp by the rootes and cast a bow shot from the place, other some cut as it had beene with an axe or saw, and so that some so straungely withered, as the like hath not beene seene of our forefathers, nor hard of our selues. Moreouer, and besides al this, was seene a most rare and terrible stratagem and perfect paterne of our impietie, for the which vnlesse spedie and suppliant prayers be lifted vp vnto our Lord, that it may please him of his infinite goodnes and mercie, to bee fauourable vnto vs, we are and shall be in daunger of his heauie displeasure from the which God for his infinite goodnes and mercies sake deliuer vs: At that instant I say beloued, there was seene of diuers credible persons a most huge great and vgly black dogge, who running along in the presence of manye beholders, rent, toare, and pulled vp whole trees by the rootes, most wonderfull to looke vpon, which did so amaze and terrifie the inhabitants there about, that they expected nothing els, but that dolefull and dismall day of Doome, I meane the comming of our Lord and Sauiour Iesus Christ, which no doubt neither is nor can be far off. Many other rare and great tempests about that time were seene in Deuonshier and diuers other places: the verie rumour whereof may of it selfe without further witnes, bee sufficient to withdraw vs from our most obstinate, sinfull, and wicked lustes and determinations, wherby we heape vpon our heads the heauie wrath and indignation of our Sauiour Christ, who I say beloued, except wee spedily repent and cal for grace, the multitude of our sinnes dayly increasing more and more, will suffer

his wrath to fall vpon vs. Looke how farre the East is from the West, so far hath he set our sinnes from vs, to thend we might repent and sinne no more, yea euen as a father pitieth his owne children, so hath he compassion on vs, and fauourably admonisheth vs by diuerse examples of his indignation, to abolish these our manifold sinnes: In somuch as with Ierusalem by diuerse and sundry tokens he hath manifested his fatherly clemencie vnto vs: yea euen as a hen gathereth her Chickins vnder her winges, so would he haue called vs and we would not: Verily beloued, the men of Niniuie repented at the preaching of Ionas with ashes and sackcloth, and turned vnto the Lord, who had pitie and compassion on them: The Queene of the South shall arise against vs in iudgement, for she came to heare the wisedome of Salomon, and we haue greater then Salomon, or Ionas, when the Lord himselfe admonisheth vs by earthquakes, comets, and signes in the ayre: the verye Turkes, Paynims, and Infidels, will arise in iudgement against vs, who no doubt, had they known the Lord God, or the multitude of examples that we haue seene, would haue bin conuerted. Let vs I say repent, be watchfull, and vigilant that our Lord and sauiour comming (like good stewards) we may make account of our liues, and be readie for the comming of our father, when he shall discend in his glorious maiestie to iudge both the quicke and the dead: and when hee shall say come ye blessed of my father, inherite the kingdome which is prepared for you from the beginning of the world, that then I say we may appeare al righteous before him to ascend with him into his glorious maiestie, there to liue and remaine with him & the father in glorie world without end.

FINIS.